



Congressman

John M. McHugh

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

• WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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CHAIRMAN McHUGH SEEKS INPUT ON POSTAL REFORM ACT
Congressman to Use WWW to Make Comment Period As Open As Possible

WASHINGTON -- Congressman John M. McHugh (R-NY), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Postal Service, is actively soliciting written comments on proposed revisions to his bill that will overhaul the laws governing the U.S. Postal Service. Chairman McHugh expects Subcommittee consideration of the revised measure this Spring.

"The Subcommittee has held an open and public debate on postal reform issues for almost three years, prompting several proposed revisions to H.R. 22 which were released in December. Since that time," Rep. McHugh said, "a variety of groups have come forward with constructive recommendations for further revisions as well as support for several provisions of the bill. As the next step in the process, I am requesting formal written comments and recommendations to help us round out this massive legislative proposal. Everyone from the Postal Service and its competitors to mailers and mail handlers has a stake in postal reform and their input is welcomed."

The written comment period will be open through April 7. The comments will be reviewed before the Subcommittee moves forward on the bill.

Rep. McHugh's bill, H.R. 22, the Postal Reform Act of 1997, would fundamentally modernize and reform the nation's postal laws for the first time since the Postal Service was created from the Post Office Department in 1971. The bill seeks to assure the American public of the availability of a viable Postal Service providing universal mail service at reasonable rates well into the next century. The proposed revisions, released last December, were the result of feedback from more than 40 witnesses who testified in five hearings specifically on the Postal Reform Act. In addition, testimony has been heard in more than a dozen hearings held by the Subcommittee with approximately 60 witnesses on the challenges facing the postal system and the need for reform. Rep. McHugh said comments submitted during the formal comment period will be posted on the Subcommittee's website for public examination.

"The Subcommittee's website will enable us to make the comment period as open as possible," Rep. McHugh said. The proposed revisions, which are detailed in a summary, section-by-section analysis, and side-by-side comparison with the original version of H.R. 22, are available in Room B-349C of the Rayburn House Office Building, or on the Subcommittee's website, (<http://www.house.gov/reform/postal/postal.htm>).

It is requested that written comments specify those provisions that are supported as well as those provisions that raise concerns. For those provisions of concern, the Subcommittee requests a detailed explanation with suggested alternatives for improvement. To facilitate an efficient distribution of comments, it is requested that written comments be accompanied by a computer disk containing the text in ASCII (preferred), WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word format.

Comments should be mailed to the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, Room B-349C Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-6147.

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